

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies curriculum provides students with the skills necessary to become a productive citizen. This is accomplished by promoting intellectual independence and nurturing the ideals of democracy.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

WORLD STUDIES - PRACTICAL (8101)
Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.00

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 9.

Description: This is a course of study intended for the practical level student. Using world history as a framework, students will be afforded an opportunity to witness the interaction of various Social Studies disciplines including history, geography, economics, and sociology.

WORLD HISTORY I - GENERAL (8201)
One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 9.

Description: This is a basic survey course designed to give students an appreciation of past cultures and the forces which have shaped them. The early civilizations of the Sumerians, Greeks, and Romans are among those studied. In addition, geography, the various religions, and the physical circumstances under which early people lived are stressed. Since history is the yesterday of mankind, this course seeks to develop an understanding of the implications of the past on the present and the future of the world. Vocabulary and study skills needed for success in future work in Social Studies are stressed.

WORLD HISTORY I - COLLEGE (8301)
One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 9. Prior successful completion of the previous level social studies class is recommended.

Description: This is a survey course covering early civilizations such as the Sumerians, Greeks, and Romans. Religions, geography, vocabulary building, and an understanding of and appreciation for diverse cultures are stressed. The course is designed as a foundation for future courses on the college preparatory level which the student may elect.

WORLD HISTORY I - HONORS (8401)
One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 9. A grade of 90 or higher in the previous level one social studies class is recommended.

Description: This Honors course presents the same basic curriculum as the corresponding college preparatory course (see World History I - College). The major difference will be the in-depth exploration, analysis of selected topics, and the amount of student participation.

WORLD HISTORY II - GENERAL (8202)
One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 9. Prior successful completion of World History I General is recommended.

Description: This course surveys topics from the Middle Ages to the Scientific Revolution. It stresses the intellectual achievements that occurred during this period with a focus on such topics as the Renaissance, the Reformation, and exploration of the New World.

WORLD HISTORY II - COLLEGE (8302)
One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 9. Prior successful completion of World History I College or a grade of 85 or higher in World History I General is recommended.

Description: This course covers issues beginning with the Middle Ages and ending with the Scientific Revolution. Emphasis will be placed on the intellectual and technological progress experienced during this time and its impact on the modern world.

WORLD HISTORY II - HONORS (8402)
One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 9. Prior successful completion of World History I Honors or a grade of 90 or higher in World History I College is recommended.

Description: This Honors course presents the same basic curriculum as the corresponding college preparatory course (see World History II College). The major difference will be the in-depth exploration, analysis of selected topics, and the amount of student participation.

AMERICAN STUDIES I - PRACTICAL (8102)
One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.00

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 10, 11, and 12.

Description: This is a course of study intended for the practical level student. Employing an interdisciplinary Social Studies approach, American Studies I will encompass the era of Early America through Manifest Destiny. The course will place special emphasis on the relevance of the subject matter to modern day students.

WORLD HISTORY III - GENERAL (8203)
One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 10. Prior successful completion of World History II General is recommended.

Description: This course exposes students to the accomplishments and mistakes of yesterday's world through the study of the histories of various countries and outside events of world history from the eighteenth century to the present. Similarities between the present and the past are continually drawn in an attempt to familiarize today's student with life beyond their own country.

WORLD HISTORY III - COLLEGE (8303)

One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 10. Prior successful completion of World History II College or a grade of 85 or higher World History II General is recommended.

Description: World History III is a study of various nations and cultures from the eighteenth century to the present. Special emphasis is placed on selected events and their relationship to each other and to our civilization of today. By a careful study of our manners and customs through which human nature expresses itself, it is possible to trace the political, social, and economic changes that have occurred. Thus, it is hoped that the student will come to realize that the future can be more intelligently anticipated through knowledge of the past.

WORLD HISTORY III - HONORS (8403)

One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 10. Prior successful completion of World History II Honors or a grade of 90 or higher in World History II College is recommended.

Description: This Honors course presents the same basic curriculum as the corresponding college preparatory course (see World History II College). The major difference will be the in-depth exploration, analysis of selected topics, and the amount of student participation.

CIVICS Practical (8105) / General (8204) / College (8304) / Honors (8404)

One Semester Credit 0.50

Prerequisites: This course fulfills a graduation requirement for all students and must be selected in Grade 10.

Description: Through the study of civics and government, students will gain knowledge of the United States Constitution, how the U.S. system of government works, and how the rule of law and the value of liberty and equality have an impact on individual, local, state, and national decisions. Students will also come to understand the rights and responsibilities of American citizens through an understanding of political systems and international relations.

AMERICAN STUDIES II - PRACTICAL (8103)

One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.00

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 11 and 12. Prior successful completion of American Studies I is recommended.

Description: This is a course of study intended for the practical level student. Employing an interdisciplinary Social Studies approach, American Studies II will deal with issues from sectionalism through World War I. Topics will include the origins of the Civil War, industrialization, and Imperialism.

AMERICAN STUDIES III - PRACTICAL (8104)

One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.00

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 11 and 12. Prior successful completion of American Studies II is recommended.

Description: This is a course of study intended for the practical level student. Employing an interdisciplinary Social Studies approach, American Studies III will encompass the post-World War I era through the present day. Topics will include the social, race, gender, and class issues of the twentieth century as well as America's rise as a superpower.

UNITED STATES HISTORY - GENERAL (8205)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 11.

Description: This course will emphasize the political, economic, and social movements and ideas which have produced the present American society. The people who, from colonial days to the present, have played major roles in the history of this country are carefully considered. In addition, the role of the citizen in a democratic society is stressed.

UNITED STATES HISTORY - COLLEGE (8305)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 11. Prior successful completion of the previous college preparatory level social studies class or a grade of 85 or higher in the previous general level social studies class is recommended.

Description: Although this course serves as an introduction to advanced studies in American history at the university level, it also provides a strong background for those who will not elect United States history while at college, but who will be expected to have a good understanding of the discipline. This is an intensive course that surveys the political, economic, and social development of the United States from the Age of Discovery to the present.

UNITED STATES HISTORY - HONORS (8405)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 11. Prior successful completion of the previous Honors level social studies class or a grade of 90 or higher in the previous college preparatory level social studies class is recommended.

Description: This Honors course presents the same basic curriculum as the corresponding college preparatory course (see United States History-College). The major difference will be the in-depth exploration, analysis of selected topics, and the amount of student participation.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY (8501)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.08

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 11. A grade of 90 or higher in Honors or College World History I, II, and III and a proven excellence in writing is recommended.

Description: The Advanced Placement course in United States History is an in-depth survey course offered on the college level to high school students who are qualified. The course is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and the factual knowledge necessary for dealing critically with materials and problems relating to United States history. Instruction includes preparation for taking the Advanced Placement examination in United States History, which is given in the spring. The course work will consist of at least eight to ten essays, three to four books, forty to fifty document readings, and some research during each quarter. Students will be expected to maintain textbook readings, vocabulary assignments, worksheets, and class presentations in the course of the year. Tests will consist of several or more chapters and periodically there will be quizzes. Students will be required to take (and pay for) the Advanced Placement in United States History exam given in the spring in order to receive credit for the course. Students planning to elect A.P. United States History should have developed good writing skills and reading comprehension within the 12th to 13th grade level. Summer reading, worksheets, essay writing, and vocabulary are required.

CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS - PRACTICAL (8106)

One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.00

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 12.

Description: This course is designed to give practical level students an overview of the major issues in American society. The areas of emphasis will include social problems, the economy, the American political scene, and skill development. A variety of approaches, readings, discussions, debates, and audiovisual presentations will be used.

CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS - GENERAL (8206)

One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 12.

Description: This course is designed to give students an understanding of the major problems and issues in contemporary American society as well as skills needed to solve problems and participate effectively in the decision-making process. Students will use several approaches to study contemporary problems and issues such as case studies, panels, debates, trials, films, and creative problem-solving techniques. Typical areas of study are American values, energy crisis, war and peace, economics, politics, violence, crime, and future studies.

INTRODUCTION TO LAW - GENERAL (8207)

One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 11 and 12.

Description: The purpose of this course is to provide the students with a basic knowledge of civil, criminal, consumer and family law. The philosophy of law and law enforcement procedures will be discussed and analyzed.

INTRODUCTION TO LAW - COLLEGE (8310)

One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 11 and 12. Prior successful completion of the previous college preparatory level of social studies or a grade of 85 or higher in the previous general level social studies class is recommended.

Description: The purpose of this course is to provide the students with a basic knowledge of civil, criminal, consumer and family law. The philosophy of law and law enforcement procedures will be discussed and analyzed. A considerable amount of reading will be required and a vocabulary of legal terms will be stressed throughout the course.

RECENT AMERICAN STUDIES - COLLEGE (8308)

One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 12. The prior successful completion of United States History - College or a grade of 85 or higher in United States History - General is recommended.

Description: This course traces the emergence and development of the major patterns in American society since World War II using other disciplines such as sociology, political science, literature, and psychology, to study recent American society.

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY - COLLEGE (8309)

One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 12. Prior successful completion of the previous college preparatory level of social studies or a grade of 85 or higher in the previous general level social studies class is recommended.

Description: This course is designed to offer students an introduction to the social science of psychology. Students will investigate a variety of topics with special attention being given to developmental psychology, learning theory, personality development, abnormal psychology, social psychology, states of consciousness, and the question of heredity versus environment. Various psychological theories and interpretations will be illustrated. Emphasis is placed upon studying human behavior in an effort to question, challenge, understand, and expand one's own awareness of self and the interaction with others. Instruction techniques include discussion, observations of human behavior, experiential exercises, and personal growth projects.

ECONOMICS - COLLEGE (8307)

One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 12. Prior successful completion of the previous college preparatory level of social studies or a grade of 85 or higher in the previous general level social studies class is recommended.

Description: Economics is the study of values and social goals. It includes such areas as the market, sales, stock market, surpluses, the supply and demand theories, and the function of government. Economics examines the gross domestic product, money, banking, and the national debt. The students are exposed to comparative economics systems, the role of business, labor unions, international trade, and the problems of population and underdeveloped countries.

SOCIOLOGY - COLLEGE (8306)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 12. Prior successful completion of the previous college preparatory level of social studies or a grade of 85 or higher in the previous general level social studies class is recommended.

Description: The first semester of sociology is devoted to social relations. Topics include understanding the sociological perspective and research methods, culture and cultural variations, values and social control, socialization, personality development and satisfying psychosocial needs, social structure, groups and organizations, and the integration of the individual into society. The second semester is devoted to specific problems of society, with the emphasis on American culture. Areas of study include deviance and crime, sex and gender, race and ethnicity, marriage and family, education and religion, politics, government and the military, aging and disability, population and urbanization, and collective behavior and social change. Term papers, if any, are left to the discretion of the instructor.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE - COLLEGE (TECH PREP) (8311)

One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 12. Prior successful completion of the previous college preparatory level of social studies or a grade of 85 or higher in the previous general level social studies class is required. Students not meeting these requirements can enter with permission of the instructor.

Description: This course is designed to give students a better understanding of law enforcement as it relates to the average citizen. The course will be team taught at Rockville High School with an officer from the Vernon Police Department. Field trips and specialists from the criminal justice system will be used extensively. Students will be using a college-level textbook and will be expected to complete rigorous reading, writing, and research assignments. Students enrolled in the Criminal Justice Tech Prep program are required to elect the Introduction to Law - College course in conjunction with the Criminal Justice course.

INDEPENDENT STUDY IN SOCIAL STUDIES

Credit and weight by Arrangement

Prerequisites: Approval of Housemaster, Social Studies department, and Guidance Counselor is required.

Description: Independent study is offered to students who have successfully completed three social studies credits and who wish to continue their study *in a specific area where there is no advanced offering*. Students opting for independent study must submit a major project proposal for the Social Studies department's approval. The final grade will be based upon the successful completion of the project and its presentation before a departmental panel.